Military cooperation between China and Pakistan

427. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous rise of military co-operation between China and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure India's security ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government are aware of continuing defence co-operation between China and Pakistan.

(b) Government have, in their discussions with the Chinese Government, emphasised that the supply of sophisticated arms and defence technology to Pakistan, beyond its legitimate requirements of defence, poses a threat to India's security and is not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in South Asia. Government have additionally stressed the need for avoidance of actions that do not build mutual confidence and understanding between India and China.

(c) Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security and take appropriate measures to safeguard the national interest.

India's stand on Signing N.P.T.

428. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in India's stand on signing the N.P.T. in wake of China's decision to sign it; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Government have seen the critical comments in Soviet Press about India's reluctance to sign the N.P.T. or to open its nuclear installations to International inspection; if so, its reactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) China's decision, in principle, to sign the NPT does not remove the discriminatory provision of that Treaty. Therefore, our objections to the Treaty remain unchanged.

(b) Government are aware of the criticism of India's position on the N.P.T. including by a section of the Soviet Press. Even without being a party to the N.P.T. India has scrupulously adhered to a non-proliferation policy and has never helped any country in the development of nuclear weapons. The Government will continue to abide by such a policy.

Main Battle Tank built by Pakistan

429. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen reports o fPakistani Army Chief Aslam Beg's claim that Pakistan had conceived, designed and produced its main battle tank "Al Khalid" within three years; if so, what is the Government's information about it; and

(b) what is Government's information about role of China in this matter in context of Pak Press's assertion that the Army was playing a hoax and that the tank was not indigenous but made in China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Government have seen Pakistani media reports suggesting that the prototype of the main battle tank displayed in July this year